

# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

### Notice of 2017 Triennial Standards Review and Request for Public Comment on the Need for Amendments and Revisions to Rules Governing Water Quality, Minnesota Rules chapters 7050 and 7052

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is conducting a Triennial Standards Review (TSR) to obtain public input on the need for amendments and revisions to rules governing state water quality standards (WQS).

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that states review their WQS every three years and amend and update them if necessary. The purpose of the TSR is to ensure an opportunity for the public to comment upon the need for revisions to state WQS. Note that rulemaking to implement revisions to state WQS is conducted separately from the TSR.

**Subjects for Comment.** The MPCA is seeking comments from all parties with an interest in or information about Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater. The MPCA requests information and opinion from the public on any subject matter contained in Minnesota Rules (Minn. R.) chapters 7050 and 7052 that should be considered for revision.

Chapter 7050 includes provisions to protect Minnesota's waters from pollution, including:

- A classification system of designated beneficial uses for both surface water and groundwater (e.g., drinking water, aquatic life and recreation, etc.), and a listing of specifically classified water bodies.
- Numeric and narrative WQS that protect these beneficial uses.
- Antidegradation provisions.
- Provisions for the protection of wetlands.
- Methods for the determination of site-specific criteria for toxic pollutants.
- Other provisions related to the protection of surface water and groundwater from point and nonpoint source pollution.

Chapter 7052 provides standards specific to surface waters in the Lake Superior Basin. Chapter 7052 establishes aquatic life, human health, and wildlife WQS and criteria based on the EPA's Great Lakes Initiative, anti-degradation standards and procedures for deriving effluent limitations from these standards and criteria.

Minn. R. chs. 7050 and 7052 also include language regarding the issuance of variances to state WQS. During the triennial review the public may comment upon active variances that have been granted by the MPCA. The MPCA also requests information and opinion from the public on: modified Class 2 and Class 7 water bodies (limited resource value waters or LRVWs) that may be able to attain higher use classes; and on the topics MPCA is considering for future revisions to state WQS, which are presented in MPCA's Proposed Water Quality Standards Work Plan for 2018 to 2020.

Complete information about the subjects open for comment, including the MPCA's Proposed Water Quality Standards Work Plan for 2018 to 2020, is available on the MPCA's website on the Water Quality Standards webpage: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/water-quality-standards>.

**Statutory Reference.** This request for comments and the associated public meeting meet the requirements for conducting a triennial standards review set forth in Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act and the Code of Federal Regulations in 40 CFR § 131.20, 40 CFR § 130.5(b)(6), and 40 CFR § 25.5.

**To submit comments:** Any individual or interested groups may submit written comments or information pertaining to the any subject matter contained in Minn. R. chs. 7050 or 7052 until 4:30 pm on Friday, February 9, 2018. All written comments submitted by that time will become part of the TSR record. Please note that electronic submissions are preferred. Please send comments, as follows:

**By email:** minnrule7050.pca@state.mn.us

**By mail:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Attn: Catherine O'Dell  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

**To attend the public meeting (in person or via webcast):** The MPCA has scheduled a public meeting for interested parties to provide comments and information and to ask questions. The meeting will be held at MPCA's office at 520 Lafayette Road North in St. Paul on January 10, 2018. The meeting will begin at 3:30 pm and continue until all parties have the opportunity to comment or until 7:00 pm, whichever comes first. The meeting will be webcast for viewing remotely; viewers may send in questions or comments during the public meeting via email.

Instructions for connecting to the webcast and submitting emailed comments will be posted on the MPCA's Water Quality Standards webpage in advance of the public meeting: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/water-quality-standards>.

Directions to the MPCA St. Paul office and parking information are at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/st-paul-office> : Please note that access to MPCA offices is controlled and to attend the meeting you will be asked to sign in at a security desk and provide photo identification, such as a Minnesota driver's license.

**For further information:** Questions regarding the scope of the TSR or technical comments or questions regarding WQS should be directed to:

Angela Preimesberger  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Telephone: 651 276-6243 or  
TTY: 651 282-5332  
Toll-free: 800-657-3864  
E-mail: [angela.preimesberger@state.mn.us](mailto:angela.preimesberger@state.mn.us)

Questions regarding the TSR process, the January 10, 2018 public meeting, how to submit comments, or other questions about the TSR should be directed to:

Catherine O'Dell  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Telephone: 651 757-2621, or  
TTY: 651 282-5332  
Toll-free: 800-657-3864

E-mail: [catherine.odell@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:catherine.odell@pca.state.mn.us)

**Alternative Format:** Upon request, this Request for Comments can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.